

Art Istanbul Feshane from October 29th to December 10th 2023

The Post-Exotic Condition Defining the Aesthetic of the Post-Globalization

Curated by Valentina Gioia Levy
as a part of the program: *I Am Another You, You are Another Me*
X Mediations Biennial

Artists:

Lisa **Batacchi** (IT); Izumi **Chiaraluce** (IT/JP); Uuriintuya **Dagvasambuu** (MNG)
Saule **Dyussenbina** (KZ); Firouz **FarmanFarmaian** (IR/FR); **Hantu** (FR); Dilyara
Kaipova (UZ); Luigi **Presicce** (IT); **Zinaida** (UKR)

Almost two decades ago, the Mediations Biennale debuted with a spectacular series of exhibitions under the title ASIA - EUROPE Mediations in Poznan. Since this first event, the biennial emerged as a reflection on the cultural dialogue of both continents with the international art scene. Over the years, Mediations Biennale has become a platform for horizontal communication and collaboration among artists from all continents. For its 10th anniversary, Mediations Biennale chose Istanbul and its historical connections between "the Orient" and "the Occident" as the starting point of an exhibition cycle under the name *Shapes of Beauty*.

The X Mediations Biennale will open on the 100th Anniversary of the Foundation of the Turkish Republic: the 29th of October 2023. The event will see the participation of more than 150 Multi-Media Artists from 38 countries to celebrate this unique occasion at the city's newly renovated art hot spot - ArtIstanbul Feshane.

The common thread underlying this series of events is the concept of post-exotic aesthetics theorized by the Italian curator and academic professor Valentina Gioia Levy in 2018. Invited by Wendland, she will present the exhibition *The Post-Exotic Condition, Defining the Aesthetics of the Post-Globalization*, whose title comes from the curator's forthcoming book, as part of the program *I am another You, You Are Another Me*, the Turkish section of *Shapes of Beauty*.

The adjective "post-exotic" was initially used by the French collective of writers known under the pseudonym Antoine Volodine to indicate a fictitious subversive literary genre born in a dystopian future in which the Earth is prey to a despotic and absolutist government. Volodine used the concept of Post-exoticism to express a gap, a "discrepancy" within the present, and the impossibility of recognizing oneself with the categories existing in a given historical moment. In Volodine's Post-exoticism, the concept of "otherness", which is at the heart of exoticism, embodies a multiplication of individual identities. Consequently, it generates confusion about authorship, nurturing a form of extraneousness within the self.

The curator, Valentina Gioia Levy, employs the notion of Post-exoticism to indicate the artistic practice of several international artists whose work revolves around the reconstruction of fractured

personal or collective identities, fragmented by hyper-modernity and globalization's centrifugal impact. The post-exotic aesthetic is subjective, anti-universalist, anti-minimalist, and often overwhelming with visual, sound, and olfactory elements. It legitimizes decorativeness and traditional craftsmanship to produce nostalgia or sentimental engagement within the public. The post-exotic artists boldly appropriate the stereotypes and use them as working tools to create artworks that (sometimes) can turn out extravagant, excessive, or Baroque. Their practice mimics the ethnographic approach, and they act as anthropologues of their own culture, focusing on investigating iconographic, symbolic, and semantic aspects of local cultures, digging into ancestral traditions, magic, and shamanism.

The participant artists are a small representation of the international post-exotic scene and were chosen, mostly between Italy and Central Asia, in areas once crossed by the Silk Road. In a time where slowness smoothed changes and transformations, the Silk Road's merchants' caravans conveyed precious "exotic" commodities but also symbols, stories, and traditions that integrated and nourished local cultures without impacting them drastically. Is it still possible to find a dimension where creation, exchange, transformation, and production of beauty take place gently, without trauma? Or are we now so accustomed to the traumatic disorder of hyper-modernity and its acceleration that we can no longer do without it?

The exhibition will travel in Cairo, Egypt, as a part of Something Else, OFF Biennale Cairo (starting on November 23rd, 2023) and then in Venice in 2024 , running in parallel to the 60th Edition of the Venice Art Biennial. It will be accompanied by a series of talks in collaboration with the University of Paris 1 Pantheon Sorbonne.

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Where : Art Istanbul Feshane, Nişanca Mahallesi. Yavedut Caddesi No 1. Istanbul (Turkey)

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Opening : October 29th, 2023

